Exploitation of Minerals in Himachal Pradesh

5034. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the exploitation of various minerals in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). To enable exploration and mining of minerals the State Government grant Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. In respect of minerals listed in the First Schedule of the Act prior approval of Central Government is required before such licences and leases can be granted. A number of such proposals from Himachal Pradesh Government for grant of Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases have been approved.

Tackling of Naxalism

5035. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Naxalite affected States was recently convened by the Union Government to tackle the problem of Naxalism in the country; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra Madhya Pradesh and Orissa gave detailed account of various aspects relating to the problem of Left Wing Extremism in their States. In the discussions that followed, it was agreed that the State Governments would prepare Action Plans incorporating maintenance of law and order as also of developmental measures which are necessary to tackle the root cause of the problem. The consensus that emerged was that the Ministry of Home Affairs should act as the Nodal Agency in this regard. The Home Minister assured all possible help to the State Governments in the matter.

Barak Dam Project

5036. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Barak Dam Project in Assam;

(b) the estimated cost of the Project and the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The estimated cost of the Barak Dam project at 1988 price level is Rs. 1316 crores. The Project is yet to be sanctioned. However preconstruction activities are proposed to be taken up after the current monsoon. So far Rs. 182 lakhs has been incurred on surveys and investigations for project formulation.